

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03712 222301Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-01
INT-05 DLOS-09 /032 W
-----222328Z 084435 /73
P 222119Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1158

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, CO
SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX AMAZON/CARIBBEAN EXPEDITION

REF: (A) STATE 69472; (B) BOGOTA 3126

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN REPLY TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF APRIL 1 REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR R/V ALPHA HELIX TO CONDUCT OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH IN COLOMBIAN TERRITGRIAL WATERS. THE COLOMBIAN GOVZRNMENT HAS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR THE RESEARCH.

2. A TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF THE MINISTRY'S NOTE FOLLOWS: "THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE SPONSORS OF THE EXPEDITION (WHICH THE SHIP IN REFERENCE IS FINISHING IN THE AMAZON REGION) ENCOUNTERED CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY COLOMBIAN LAW, DENIES PERMISSION FOR CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH REFERRED TO IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE."

3. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF NOTE, EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONCERNED AND ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF DECISION. HE WAS TOLD COLOMBIAN
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NAVY CONSIDERED THAT THE RESEARCH COVERED IN THIS REQUEST WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE ALPHA HELIX EXPEDITION IN THE AMAZON REGION AND THAT CONSIDERING THE REFUSAL OF THE EXPEDITION'S SPONSORS TO COMPLY WITH COLOMBIAN LAW IN THE REQUEST FOR PHASE VII, AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH COULD NOT BE GRANTED.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL EXPLAINED INFORMALLY THAT CERTAIN COLOMBIAN NAVAL OFFICIALS REMAINED SO ANNOYED AT BEHAVIOR OF EXPEDITION'S SPONSORS IN PHASE I, PHASE VII AND IN SUBSEQUENT DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING VISIT TO LETICIA THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEDE TO ANY REQUEST FOR ALPHA HELIX RESEACH AT THIS TIME. HE SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED TO THESE NAVY OFFICIALS THAT, AS HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY EMBASSY, THE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH WAS ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO THE AMAZON EXPEDITION AND WOULD IN FACT INVOLVE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS. DESPITE THIS EXPLANATION, THE COLOMBIAN NAVY REMAINED OPPOSED.

5. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED THAT DECISION BE RECONSIDERED AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONSULT AGAIN WITH NAVY OFFICIALS EMPHASIZING THE SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VIS A VIS THE AMAZON EXPEDITION. HE PROMISED TO DO SO BUT SAID HE BELIEVED THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS WERE VERY DOUBTFUL. HE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY BY END OF MONTH.

6. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALPHA HELIX R/V, AMAZON, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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